

REMARKS

Amendments to the Specification

By this amendment, applicants have amended the specification to make reference to the priority applications for the subject application. By the present amendment to the specification, no new matter has been added to the application. Applicants respectfully request that this amendment to the specification be entered.

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-17 were pending in the subject application. By this Preliminary Amendment, applicants have amended claims 1-14, and 16. Applicants have further cancelled claims 15 and 17 without prejudice to applicants' right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in a future continuation or divisional application, and added new claims 18-40.

Applicants note that the claims have been amended to remove multiple dependencies. The claims have been further amended to conform the claim language to U.S. patent practice.

Support for amended claims 1 and 5 may be found inter alia in the specification, as originally-filed, on page 6, lines 1-15, and on page 9, lines 6-9. Support for amended claim 13 may be found inter alia in the specification, as originally-filed, on page 13, lines 28-29. Additionally, claim 13 has been amended to correct two obvious typographical errors and changed from dependent format to independent format. Support for amended claim 14 may be found inter alia in the specification, as originally-filed, on page 21, lines 23-24; and page 19, lines 8-12. Support for amended claim 16 may be found inter alia in the specification, as originally-filed, on page 23, lines 7-13; and page 19, lines 8-12. Support for new claims 18 and 19 may be found inter alia in the specification, as originally-filed, on page 8, lines 4-11. Support for new claims 20 and 21 may be found inter alia in the specification, as originally-filed, on page 8, lines 19-26. Support for new claims 22 and 23 may be found inter alia in the specification, as

originally-filed, on page 8, line 28 through page 9, line 4. Support for new claims 24 and 25 may be found inter alia in the specification, as originally-filed, on page 9, lines 10-17. Support for new claims 26 and 27 may be found inter alia in the specification, as originally-filed, on page 10, lines 15-29. Support for new claim 28 may be found inter alia in the specification, as originally-filed, on page 10, line 31 through page 11, line 2. Support for new claim 29 may be found inter alia in the specification, as originally-filed, on page 11, lines 4-8. Support for new claims 30 and 31 may be found inter alia in the specification, as originally-filed, on page 11, line 10 through page 12, line 19. Support for new claim 32 may be found inter alia in the specification, as originally-filed, on page 12, lines 21-24. Support for new claims 33 and 34 may be found inter alia in the specification, as originally-filed, on page 21, line 30 through page 23, line 13; and page 19, lines 8-13. Support for new claim 35 may be found inter alia in the specification, as originally-filed, on page 22, lines 7-8; and page 23, lines 7-13; and page 19, lines 8-13. Support for amended claim 36 may be found inter alia in the specification, as originally-filed, on page 21, lines 23-24; and page 19, lines 8-12. Support for amended claim 37 may be found inter alia in the specification, as originally-filed, on page 23, lines 7-13; and page 19, lines 8-12. Support for new claims 38 and 39 may be found inter alia in the specification, as originally-filed, on page 21, line 30 through page 23, line 13; and page 19, lines 8-13. Support for new claim 40 may be found inter alia in the specification, as originally-filed, on page 22, lines 7-8; and page 23, lines 7-13; and page 19, lines 8-13.

Applicants note that the amendments to the claims raise no issue of new matter and respectfully request that the amendment be entered. Accordingly, upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-14, and 16 as amended, and new claims 18-40 will be pending and under examination.